

## HURRICANE UNIFIED COMMAND



# IBERIA PARISH

## PROGRESS REPORT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT A GLANCE	
316	Wastewater Facility Assessments*
21	Industry Damage Assessments
13,488	Pounds of Ammunition/Explosives Collected*
9	School Lab Assessments

were conducted at drinking water facilities. Similarly, 316 wastewater treatment plants were assessed for damage.

Next, EPA and LDEQ turned to federally-permitted facilities. The agencies conducted interviews and site visits at hazardous waste storage, transfer or disposal facilities from February 20<sup>th</sup> to March 6<sup>th</sup>. During this time, 562 facilities in southern Louisiana were addressed, including 21 facilities in Iberia Parish. The site visits and interviews established that employees could return to work at facilities operating in accordance with federal and state regulations. Because of concerns that damaged chemicals in school biology and chemistry laboratories could cause a health hazard, EPA and LDEQ

Since September 2005, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) have worked together to address environmental hazards from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to help Iberia Parish recover.

One of EPA and LDEQ's first priorities was to ensure residents returning to all the cities affected by the hurricanes had safe drinking water. Throughout Louisiana, 190 assessments



conducted assessments at 362 schools in southern Louisiana. Some chemical containers were found to be damaged by the hurricanes, by flood waters and/or from heat exposure. EPA and LDEQ, in coordination with the Louisiana State Police and local fire departments, removed dangerous chemicals from 116 schools in southern Louisiana. Nine schools in Iberia Parish were assessed; chemicals were removed from three of them.

In response to community concerns about potential harm from firearms, ammunition and explosives, EPA began collecting these materials for appropriate disposal in January 2006. In southwestern and south-central Louisiana parishes, 224 firearms and 13,488 pounds of ammunition, explosives, fireworks and other similar items were collected. As of August 31, 2006, across southern Louisiana, a total of 1,623 firearms and 69,387 pounds of ammunition, explosives, fireworks and other similar items have been collected.



Left: EPA assessing a wastewater facility for damage.

\*Reflects more than Iberia Parish activities